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**E&E Greenwire**

<https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060076707/search?keyword=EPA>

**EPA rejects wetland permit for Mich. mine opposed by tribe**

3/19/18

U.S. EPA has rejected a wetland permit for a proposed gold, zinc and copper mine in Michigan.

EPA said in a letter earlier this month to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality that Aquila Resources Inc. had failed to meet Clean Water Act standards or sufficiently address tribal concerns about the Back Forty mine.

The Menominee Indians, located just across the border in Wisconsin, have fought against the mine for years, saying it could threaten water quality and sacred cultural artifacts (E&E News PM, Jan. 22).

The tribe and other mine opponents cheered EPA's action, saying it imposes significant hurdles on Aquila Resources.

"There's no one small fix the company can do," said Kathleen Heideman of the Upper Peninsula's Mining Action Group. "The company would have to fix it in so many ways, it would become a different permit, or a different project."

Aquila Resources did not respond to requests for comment. Michigan previously approved several key permits for the mine (Brian Bienkowski, Environmental Health News, March 19). — MJ